of goods and higher prices charged as compared to those in the open market during 1996, so far; and

(c) the action taken' in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Fruit & Vegetable Project procures fruit & vegetable items by and large from growers associations/societies located in different states of India. However, in case of non availability of certain fruit & vegetable item or any logistic problem these are procured from wholesale market. The material thus procured is delivered by the growers at procurement centre in the area from where the material is transported to the Central Distribution Facility of project at Delhi.

Retail prices are fixed based on the grades and the prices prevalent in the various retail markets in Delhi.

(b) Fruit & Vegetable Project has received 178 complaints during the period January' 96 to 20th Nov., 1996 against quality and 39 complaints against high prices.

(c) All complaints were investigated by the Marketing staff of the Project. No complaint for higher price was found correct. Six Concessionaires were removed on account of quality complaints which were mainly due to non-removal of left overs produced by the concessionaire from the display rack.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Completion and Cost of Konkan Railway Project

777. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the presentation of the last Railway Budget he had stated that the Konkan Railway Project will be completed by 31st October, 1996 but subsequently assured the House that the project will be completed by 31st December, 1996;

(b) if so, the present status of the Project and by when it will be completed; and

(c) the initial cost estimate of the project and the anticipated cost on the completion of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been further set back to the project due to geological problems in tunnels in Goa area. The work is now expected to be completed by March, 1997.

(c) Initial cost of the project was Rs. 1073 crores and the anticipated cost as in March 1996 is Rs. 2230.42 crores.

Economic position of Railways

778. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways are running on profit;

(b) in which lines it is profitable and to which lines it is in loss;

(c) whether the fast running trains are profitable or in loss; and

(d) the amount of profit or loss for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Indian Railways as a whole have been generating surplus after meeting their total working expenses including appropriation to Depreciation Reserve Fund, Pension Fund and dividend liability.

(b) During the year 1994-95, 119 branch lines were found to be unremunerative incurring a loss of Rs. 165.73 crore.

(c) No statistics is maintained for fast running trains. On the basis of profitability analysis of passenger services carried out annually on Indian Railways the total losses are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Mail Express Passenger	139.01	145.93	108.93
Ordinary passenger	1060.11	1105.45	1164.35

(d) The amount of surplus for the last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Amount	1806.08	2446.40	2871.63

Fare on Konkan rail line

779. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item that the passenger fare on the Konkan line would be more than prevalent charges on other routes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the role of the Ministry in fixing the tariff; and

(d) the proposed fare between Mangalore and Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Railways has fixed the tariff. The increased fares are on account of 40% inflation in distance for charge. The inflation was imposed with a view to realise remunerative return and to enable the Konkan Railway Corporation to repay the huge market borrowings and to meet its high operational and administrative expenses.

(d) The proposed fare between Mangalore and Bombay will be as under:—

Class	Amount of fare
1. 2nd Class mail/express	Rs. 188/-
2. Sleeper Class	Rs. 247/-
3. 1st Class	Rs. 876/-
4. 2nd AC Sleeper	Rs. 1147/-
5. 1st AC	Rs. 1999/-

Popularity of Cash Crops

780. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the cash crops which are more popular in our country;

(b) whether encouragement of these crops fits in our agricultural policy;

(c) the strategy of Government in the area of cash crops; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement the strategy?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Cotton, jute, mesta, oilseeds, sugarcane, tobacco, cashew, spices, fruits & vegetables are popular cash crops in our country.

(b) Draft Agriculture Policy envisages encouragement of all types of crops, especially Horticultural crops which improve economic returns for the farmers.

(c) and (d) A number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been implemented during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Under these Schemes, steps have been taken for transferring technology through field demonstrations and training of farmers and supply of critical inputs such as seeds, farm implements etc. The names of the schemes and the amounts released to various States and implementing Agencies under major crops oriented programmes during first four years of Eighth Plan is as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount released (from 1992-93 to 1995-96)
1.	Sustainable development of sugarcane based cropping systems	3026
2.	Intensive Cotton Development Programme	3751
3.	Special Jute Development Programme	672
4.	Oilseed Production Programme	33533
5.	Oil Palm Development Programme	5992
6.	Intergrated Development Programme for Spices	7871
7.	Integrated Development of Cashewnut	3021
8.	Integrated Development Programme for Tropical Temperate and Arid Zone fruits	4848
9.	Production & Supply of Vegetable - seeds	1107
	Total	63821